

WRITING SUB-TEST – TEST BOOKLET

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

You must write your answer for the Writing sub-test in the **Writing Answer Booklet**.

You must **NOT** remove OET material from the test room.

Occupational English Test

WRITING SUB-TEST: RADIOGRAPHY

TIME ALLOWED: READING TIME: 5 MINUTES

WRITING TIME: 40 MINUTES

Read the case notes and complete the writing task which follows.

Notes:

Assume that today's date is 15 May 2021. You are a radiographer working at a private radiology clinic. A patient, Mr Max Smith, was referred to you by his new doctor for an X-ray.

Name: Mr Max Smith
DOB: 21 Jul 1966 (54 y.o.)

Medical history:

Oct 2013 Moderate hypertension
Aug 2016 Right inguinal hernia repair
Nov 2020 Lower back pain – ?triggered by manual labour during house renovations. Sent for lumbar spine X-ray
01 Jan 2021 Lumbar spine X-ray normal, nil pathology. Suspected muscular sprain. Recommended oral analgesia plus rest
13 Apr 2021 Pain unresolving. Repeat lumbar spine X-ray – normal, nil pathology. Pt advised by Dr to stop all manual labour and rest, take analgesia as required
14 May 2021 Seeing new Dr (Dr Leah Brown, Newtown Medical Clinic)
Lower back pain low-grade – non-resolving

Current medications:

Nifedipine (Adalat CC)
OTC ibuprofen – as required (for lower back pain)

Radiography notes:

Patient: Mr Max Smith, 54 y.o. male
Date: 15 May 2021
Referral: From Dr Brown – request for lumbar spine X-ray
X-ray room 28: Lumbar spine X-ray

Reason for procedure:

5 months history lower back pain, unresolving

Procedure record:

10:25am Pt arrival waiting room
10:30am Pt →X-ray preparation room
Request form & patient identification – checked & signed
Ask Pt re any previous lumbar spine X-rays
Pt confirms previous lumbar spine X-rays. Checked records. Computer images on file available
Previous lumbar spine X-ray 01 Jan 2021 and 13 Apr 2021. Nil pathology both times. Current requisition – no request for additional views (e.g., obliques)

- 10:40am** Ask Pt re any changes since last X-ray:
Pt has new Dr – Dr Leah Brown; complains former Dr not treating him properly; confident about new Dr – will solve back problem after today's X-ray report
- 10:45am** Advice to Pt: X-ray likely unnecessary. Pt upset – stresses today's X-ray for new Dr very important
Ask Pt re access of new Dr to previous X-ray results. Pt unsure
- 10:50am** Consulted radiologist. Decision – requested imaging unjustified
- 11:00am** Explained decision. Pt angry. Insists new X-ray necessary
Advice to Pt re possibility of giving permission to new Dr to access former Dr's records, incl. X-ray results. Pt argues another X-ray easier, does not want new Dr biased by previous Dr's opinion
- 11:05am** Explanation of decision to Pt: 2 X-rays in last 4 months, no pathology. Need to avoid unnecessary X-rays/radiation
- 11:10am** Pt unhappy
Reassured Pt
Offer to write letter to new Dr. Pt reluctantly agrees – permit new Dr access to medical records & images from previous Dr
- Action:** Write to Pt's new doctor, Dr Brown – explain circumstances; suggest contacting Pt's former Dr for Pt records & request original X-ray images

Writing Task:

Using the information above, write a letter to the patient's doctor, Dr Brown, explaining the consultation today and suggesting that she contact the previous doctor. Address the letter to Dr Leah Brown, Newtown Medical Clinic, 200 Main Street, Newtown.

In your answer:

- **Expand the relevant notes into complete sentences**
- **Do not use note form**
- **Use letter format**

The body of the letter should be approximately 180–200 words.

Any answers recorded here will not be marked.

BLANK

Occupational English Test**WRITING SUB-TEST: RADIOGRAPHY
SAMPLE RESPONSE: LETTER**

Dr Leah Brown
Newtown Medical Clinic
200 Main Street
Newtown

15 May 2021

Dear Dr Brown

Re: Mr Max Smith
DOB: 21 Jul 1966

I am writing to inform you about a problem we encountered when your patient, Mr Smith, presented today for a lumbar spine X-ray.

I was the radiographer assigned to his care and, on checking his records at our clinic, I noted that Mr Smith had had lumbar spine X-rays on 1 January 2021 and 13 April 2021, both in relation to his lower back problem. Each time, no pathology was detected. Today's requisition does not ask for new views (e.g., obliques).

On questioning Mr Smith, I found that there did not seem to be anything different emerging in his clinical presentation to justify a repeat lumbar spine X-ray. I consulted with our clinic's radiologist, who decided that the requested imaging appears unjustified. When I explained this to Mr Smith, he became upset as he is keen to have his back problem resolved.

I advised Mr Smith that I would write to you and let you know why we did not perform a lumbar spine X-ray today. He has agreed to give you permission to contact his previous doctor for his patient records and original X-ray images.

Yours sincerely

Radiographer